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### § 1. Short title

This chapter may be cited as the “Commodity Exchange Act.”

(Sept. 21, 1922, ch. 369, §1, 42 Stat. 998; June 15, 1936, ch. 545, §1, 49 Stat. 1491.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

This chapter superseded act Aug. 24, 1921, ch. 86, 42 Stat. 187, known as “The Future Trading Act,” which act was declared unconstitutional, at least in part, in *Hill v. Wallace*, Ill. 1922, 42 S.Ct. 453, 259 U.S. 44, 66 L.Ed. 822. Section 3 of that act was found unconstitutional as imposing a penalty in *Trusler v. Crooks*, Mo. 1926, 46 S.Ct. 165, 269 U.S. 475, 70 L.Ed. 365.

#### AMENDMENTS

1936—Act June 15, 1936, substituted “Commodity Exchange Act” for “The Grain Futures Act”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1936 AMENDMENT

Section 13 of act June 15, 1936, provided that: “All provisions of this Act [see Tables for classification] authorizing the registration of futures commission merchants and floor brokers, the fixing of fees and charges therefor, the promulgation of rules, regulations and orders, and the holding of hearings precedent to the promulgation of rules, regulations, and orders shall be effective immediately. All other provisions of this Act shall take effect ninety days after the enactment of this Act [June 15, 1936].”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(5) [§1(a)], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-365, provided that: “This Act [H.R. 5660, as enacted by section 1(a)(5) of Pub. L. 106-554, enacting sections 5, 6o-1, 7 to 7a-3, 7b-1, 7b-2, 9c, and 27 to 27f of this title, sections 781 to 784 of Title 11, Bankruptcy, sections 339a, 4421, and 4422 of Title 12, Banks and Banking, and sections 77b-1 and 78c-1 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade, amending sections 1a, 2, 2a, 4, 4a, 6 to 6m, 6p, 7a-2, 7b, 8 to 9a, 10a, 11, 12, 12a to 12c, 13, 13a to 13b, 16, 18 to 21, and 25 of this title, sections 101, 103, 109, and 761 of Title 11, sections 624 and 4402 of Title 12, and sections 77b, 77c, 77l, 77q, 78c, 78f, 78g, 78i, 78j, 78k-1, 78l, 78o, 78o-3, 78p, 78q, 78q-1, 78s, 78t, 78u, 78u-1, 78bb, 78ee, 78ccc, 78lll, 80a-2, 80b-2, and 80b-3 of Title 15, repealing sections 5, 7, 7a, and 12e of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section, section 2 of this title, and section 78c of Title 15] may be cited as the ‘Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000’.”

Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(5) [title IV, §401], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-457, provided that: “This title [title

IV of H.R. 5660, as enacted by section 1(a)(5) of Pub. L. 106-554, enacting sections 27 to 27f of this title] may be cited as the ‘Legal Certainty for Bank Products Act of 2000’.”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 104-9, § 1, Apr. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 154, provided that: “This Act [amending section 16 of this title] may be cited as the ‘CFTC Reauthorization Act of 1995’.”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1992 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 102-546, § 1(a), Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3590, provided that: “This Act [enacting sections 1a and 12e of this title, amending sections 2, 2a, 4, 4a, 6 to 6c, 6e to 6g, 6j, 6p, 7 to 9a, 10a, 12, 12a, 12c, 13 to 13c, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, and 25 of this title, repealing section 26 of this title, enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 1a, 4a, 6c, 6e, 6j, 6p, 7a, 13, 16a, 21, and 22 of this title, and repealing provisions set out as a note under section 4a of this title] may be cited as the ‘Futures Trading Practices Act of 1992’.”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 99-641, § 1, Nov. 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3556, provided that: “This Act [enacting section 2271a of this title, amending sections 2a, 6b, 6c, 7a, 13, 13a-1, 15, 16, 21, 23, 74, 87b, 1444, 1445b-3, and 1445c-2 of this title, sections 590h and 3831 of Title 16, Conservation, sections 606, 609, 621, 671, and 676 of Title 21, Food and Drugs, repealing section 14 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 20, 71, 76, 87b, and 2271a of this title and sections 601, 606, 609, 621, 671, and 676 of Title 21] may be cited as the ‘Futures Trading Act of 1986’.”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1983 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 97-444, § 1, Jan. 11, 1983, 96 Stat. 2294, provided: “That this Act [enacting sections 2a, 12d, 25, and 26 of this title, amending sections 2, 4, 4a, 5, 6, 6a, 6c, 6d, 6f, 6g, 6h, 6i, 6k, 6m, 6n, 6o, 6p, 7a, 8, 9, 12, 12a, 13, 13a-1, 13a-2, 13c, 16, 16a, 18, 20, 21, 23, and 612c-3 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 2 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Futures Trading Act of 1982’.”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 95-405, § 1, Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 865, provided: “That this Act [enacting sections 13a-2, 16a, and 23 of this title, amending sections 2, 4a, 6c, 6d, 6f, 6g, 6k, 6m, 6n, 6o, 7a, 8, 12, 12a, 12c, 13, 13a, 15, 16, 18, and 21 of this title and section 6001 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, repealing section 15a of this title, omitting sections 12-1 to 12-3 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 2 and 20 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Futures Trading Act of 1978’.”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1974 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 93-463, § 1, Oct. 23, 1974, 88 Stat. 1389, provided: “That this Act [enacting sections 4a, 6j, 6k, 6l, 6m, 6n, 6o, 6p, 9a, 12-2, 13-3, 12c, 13a-1, 15a, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 of this title, amending sections 2, 4, 6, 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, 6e, 6f, 6g, 6i, 7, 7a, 7b, 8, 9, 11, 12, 12-1, 12a, 12b, 13, 13a, 13b, 13c, 15, and 16 of this title and sections 5314, 5315, 5316, and 5108 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 2, 4a, and 6a of this title] may be cited as the ‘Commodity Futures Trading Commission Act of 1974’.”

#### SAVINGS PROVISIONS FOR 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-554, § 1(a)(5) [title III, § 304], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-457, provided that: “Nothing in this Act [see Short Title of 2000 Amendment note above] or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed as finding or implying that any swap agreement is or is not a security for any purpose under the securities laws. Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed as finding or implying that

any swap agreement is or is not a futures contract or commodity option for any purpose under the Commodity Exchange Act [7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.]”

#### CONSTRUCTION OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-554, § 1(a)(5) [title I, § 122], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-405, provided that: “Except as expressly provided in this Act [see Short Title of 2000 Amendment note above] or an amendment made by this Act, nothing in this Act or an amendment made by this Act supersedes, affects, or otherwise limits or expands the scope and applicability of laws governing the Securities and Exchange Commission.”

#### PURPOSES OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-554, § 1(a)(5) [§ 2], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-366, provided that:

“The purposes of this Act [see Short Title of 2000 Amendment note above] are—

“(1) to reauthorize the appropriation for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission;

“(2) to streamline and eliminate unnecessary regulation for the commodity futures exchanges and other entities regulated under the Commodity Exchange Act [7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.];

“(3) to transform the role of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to oversight of the futures markets;

“(4) to provide a statutory and regulatory framework for allowing the trading of futures on securities;

“(5) to clarify the jurisdiction of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission over certain retail foreign exchange transactions and bucket shops that may not be otherwise regulated;

“(6) to promote innovation for futures and derivatives and to reduce systemic risk by enhancing legal certainty in the markets for certain futures and derivatives transactions;

“(7) to reduce systemic risk and provide greater stability to markets during times of market disorder by allowing the clearing of transactions in over-the-counter derivatives through appropriately regulated clearing organizations; and

“(8) to enhance the competitive position of United States financial institutions and financial markets.”

#### REPORT TO CONGRESS

Pub. L. 106-554, § 1(a)(5) [title I, § 125], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-411, provided that:

“(a) The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (in this section referred to as the ‘Commission’) shall undertake and complete a study of the Commodity Exchange Act [7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.] (in this section referred to as ‘the Act’) and the Commission’s rules, regulations and orders governing the conduct of persons required to be registered under the Act, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 21, 2000]. The study shall identify—

“(1) the core principles and interpretations of acceptable business practices that the Commission has adopted or intends to adopt to replace the provisions of the Act and the Commission’s rules and regulations thereunder;

“(2) the rules and regulations that the Commission has determined must be retained and the reasons therefor;

“(3) the extent to which the Commission believes it can effect the changes identified in paragraph (1) of this subsection through its exemptive authority under section 4(c) of the Act [7 U.S.C. 6(c)]; and

“(4) the regulatory functions the Commission currently performs that can be delegated to a registered futures association (within the meaning of the Act) and the regulatory functions that the Commission has determined must be retained and the reasons therefor.

“(b) In conducting the study, the Commission shall solicit the views of the public as well as Commission registrants, registered entities, and registered futures associations (all within the meaning of the Act).

“(c) The Commission shall transmit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report of the results of its study, which shall include an analysis of comments received.”

### § 1a. Definitions

As used in this chapter:

#### (1) Alternative trading system

The term “alternative trading system” means an organization, association, or group of persons that—

(A) is registered as a broker or dealer pursuant to section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 [15 U.S.C. 78o(b)] (except paragraph (1) thereof);

(B) performs the functions commonly performed by an exchange (as defined in section 3(a)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 [15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(1)]);

(C) does not—

(i) set rules governing the conduct of subscribers other than the conduct of such subscribers’ trading on the alternative trading system; or

(ii) discipline subscribers other than by exclusion from trading; and

(D) is exempt from the definition of the term “exchange” under such section 3(a)(1) [15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(1)] by rule or regulation of the Securities and Exchange Commission on terms that require compliance with regulations of its trading functions.

#### (2) Board of trade

The term “board of trade” means any organized exchange or other trading facility.

#### (3) Commission

The term “Commission” means the Commodity Futures Trading Commission established under section 2(a)(2) of this title.

#### (4) Commodity

The term “commodity” means wheat, cotton, rice, corn, oats, barley, rye, flaxseed, grain sorghums, mill feeds, butter, eggs, *Solanum tuberosum* (Irish potatoes), wool, wool tops, fats and oils (including lard, tallow, cottonseed oil, peanut oil, soybean oil, and all other fats and oils), cottonseed meal, cottonseed, peanuts, soybeans, soybean meal, livestock, livestock products, and frozen concentrated orange juice, and all other goods and articles, except onions as provided in section 13-1 of this title, and all services, rights, and interests in which contracts for future delivery are presently or in the future dealt in.

#### (5) Commodity pool operator

The term “commodity pool operator” means any person engaged in a business that is of the nature of an investment trust, syndicate, or similar form of enterprise, and who, in connection therewith, solicits, accepts, or receives from others, funds, securities, or property, either directly or through capital contributions, the sale of stock or other forms of securities, or otherwise, for the purpose of trading in any commodity for future delivery on or subject to the rules of any contract market or deriva-

tives transaction execution facility, except that the term does not include such persons not within the intent of the definition of the term as the Commission may specify by rule, regulation, or order.

### (6) Commodity trading advisor

#### (A) In general

Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the term “commodity trading advisor” means any person who—

(i) for compensation or profit, engages in the business of advising others, either directly or through publications, writings, or electronic media, as to the value of or the advisability of trading in—

(I) any contract of sale of a commodity for future delivery made or to be made on or subject to the rules of a contract market or derivatives transaction execution facility;

(II) any commodity option authorized under section 6c of this title; or

(III) any leverage transaction authorized under section 23 of this title; or

(ii) for compensation or profit, and as part of a regular business, issues or promulgates analyses or reports concerning any of the activities referred to in clause (i).

#### (B) Exclusions

Subject to subparagraph (C), the term “commodity trading advisor” does not include—

(i) any bank or trust company or any person acting as an employee thereof;

(ii) any news reporter, news columnist, or news editor of the print or electronic media, or any lawyer, accountant, or teacher;

(iii) any floor broker or futures commission merchant;

(iv) the publisher or producer of any print or electronic data of general and regular dissemination, including its employees;

(v) the fiduciary of any defined benefit plan that is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.);

(vi) any contract market or derivatives transaction execution facility; and

(vii) such other persons not within the intent of this paragraph as the Commission may specify by rule, regulation, or order.

#### (C) Incidental services

Subparagraph (B) shall apply only if the furnishing of such services by persons referred to in subparagraph (B) is solely incidental to the conduct of their business or profession.

#### (D) Advisors

The Commission, by rule or regulation, may include within the term “commodity trading advisor”, any person advising as to the value of commodities or issuing reports or analyses concerning commodities if the Commission determines that the rule or reg-